

Closure member for an installation opening in a shift mechanism for bicycles

5

Description

The invention relates to a closure member for an installation opening in a housing of a shift mechanism for bicycles, made of rubber-elastic material, this installation opening

10 preferably being suitable for installing a cable for a Bowden line, which can be pulled out of this installation opening if damage has occurred to the Bowden transmission.

US Patent 5,134,897 has disclosed a twist-grip shift that has a grip with a cable reel onto which a cable for operating a set of bicycle gears can be wound. The cable ends in a nipple that can be fixed in the cable reel, the cable reel moving in a housing that is mounted on the bicycle and has an opening that comes to lie over the nipple in a particular position of the cable reel, allowing the cable to be pulled or pushed nipple first through the opening in the housing. The cable can be reinstalled in the same way that it is removed. The position of the nipple relative to the opening in the housing is shown particularly by Figs 3, 6, 8 and 12.

25

However, there is no covering for the opening in the housing to prevent dirt from penetrating into the sensitive bearing arrangement of the cable reel. On the contrary, the design is such that covering is not possible because the opening

5 simultaneously serves as a window for the figures arranged on the cable reel to indicate the gear selected. In this case, the opening could at best be covered by a transparent sheet.

However, coverings for openings in the housing of a shift

10 mechanism for the installation of a cable together with its nipple are known and are sold in large quantities by the applicant. In the event of cable repair, however, the coverings are quickly lost because of their small size, and they must subsequently be replaced. The subject matter of the 15 invention covered by this application relates to loss-proofing of a closure member that can be used to close this abovementioned installation opening as many times as desired without being lost or being damaged during installation. This is achieved through the selection of material and the 20 arrangement of the closure member on the housing. Since the closure member does not have to transmit any significant forces or have any significant forces acting on it, it can be made from relatively soft rubber-elastic material and be provided with an extension that can be secured on the housing, 25 the closure member hanging from the housing by means of the

extension once opened, and remaining available for subsequent closure of the installation opening.

Summary of the Invention

The invention has thus set itself the object of providing a
5 closure member for an installation opening in a housing of a shift mechanism for bicycles that is made of rubber-elastic material, can be opened as many times as desired and can be closed reliably, a means of preventing loss ensuring that the closure member does not get lost during the installation of
10 the cable.

The way in which this is achieved is disclosed in the characterizing part of the main claim and in the subclaims.

An exemplary embodiment of a closure member for a housing on a
15 shift mechanism is explained with reference to a number of diagrams, where:

Fig. 1 shows a closure member with an extension in a housing of a shift mechanism in a partially sectioned representation;

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 2 shows the opened closure member with an upper lip and a lower lip for fixing the closure member on the edge of an installation opening in the housing;

25 Fig. 3 shows how the edge of the installation opening is formed by an offset;

Fig. 4 shows the arrangement of the installation opening on the shift mechanism.

a

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

5 If 1 denotes a closure member for a housing 2 of a shift mechanism 3, this closure member is secured in a loss-proof manner in an installation opening 4 by means of an extension 6 inasmuch as the extension 6 is arranged in such a way that it can be inserted behind a holding member 5, the end of the

10 extension 6 comprising a thickened portion 7 that is supported against the housing 2 and the holding member 5 in such a way that the closure member 1 can no longer be pulled out of the anchorage thus formed. The closure member 1 furthermore has an upper lip 9 that runs at least part of the way round on the

15 upper surface of the housing 2 of the shift mechanism 3 and comes to rest over the edge of the installation opening 4 when the closure member 1 has closed the installation opening 4.

Fig. 1 shows how the upper lip 9 seals the installation opening 4 against dirt or water penetration. A lower lip 10, which likewise runs at least part of the way round on the inside of the housing 2 prevents the closure member 1 from opening spontaneously once closed.

25 Fig. 2 illustrates how the closure member 1 exposes the installation opening 4 when opened. Here, a molded recess 8

equivalent to a neck is employed and acts like a hinge, the extension 6 together with the thickened portion 7 behind the holding member 5 remaining stationary without being affected by the movement of the closure member.

5

According to Fig. 3, the edge of the installation opening is modified in such a way that an upper lip 9a comes to rest on an offset 12 in a housing 2a, it being possible to recess a modified closure member 1a at least partially into the 10 installation opening 4 in the closed state, with the result that the upper lip 9a no longer extends beyond the profile of the housing 2a and forms a more elegant means of closure.

Fig. 4 shows an installation opening which, when a cable 13 is 15 in a particular position, reveals a nipple 11 of the cable 13 when the closure member 1 is open, it being possible either to pull the nipple out through the installation opening 4 with a tool or to push it through the installation opening 4 when the cable 13 is being pushed in from outside the shift mechanism 20 3.

The closure member 1,1a can be anchored easily in the housing 2 of the shift mechanism 3 by means of the holding member 5, which can be formed easily by an injection-molding technique, 25 providing the advantage compared with the previous solution of a simple cap that a closure member 1,1a with a safeguard

against loss is obtained. The recessable sealing lip 9a might be mentioned as a further refinement, said lip enhancing the appearance of the housing 2a in the area of the installation opening 4.